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Blondlot (C. R., 117, p. 543; 1893). The signals were sent over a wire of about one kilometer in length and another of about 1.8 kilometers. In the first case the mean velocity was found equal to 293,000 and in the second to 298,000 kilometers per second which is very close to the velocity of light. Poincaré proceeds now to the discussion of the most severe test of the Maxwellian theory, that is the propagation of electromagnetic waves through dielectrics.

M. I. PUPIN.

COLUMBIA COLLEGE.

(*To be Concluded.*)

Model Engine Construction.—J. ALEXANDER.

—New York and London, Whitaker & Co. 1894. Illustrated by 21 sheets of drawings and 59 engravings in the text. 12mo, pp. viii + 324. Price, \$3.00.

This little book is an excellent treatise on the construction of models of stationary locomotive and marine engines, and contains also instructions for building one form of hot-air engine. It is written by an author evidently familiar with his subject, and the text and illustrations are such as will serve the purpose of both artificer and amateur, desiring to produce model representations of real working engines of standard forms. Bright young mechanics will find here business-like statements of details of drawing, pattern-making, and finishing such models; and, if heedfully complied with, these instructions will result in the production of steam-engines which will actually 'steam,' and which will delight the heart of the mechanic. The drawings are all representative of British practice, and, in some respects, therefore, quite different from familiar practice in the United States; but British practice is 'not so bad,' after all, and many old mechanics, and probably every amateur, will be able to profit greatly by the careful study of this little work.

R. H. T.

NOTES.

PERSONAL.

KARL HANSHOFFER, Professor in the University of Munich, and well known through his researches in crystallography and other branches of mineralogy, has died at Munich at the age of fifty-four.

PROF. G. LEWITZKY has been appointed Director of the Observatory in Dorpat, and Dr. L. Sturve succeeds Professor Lewitzky at Charkow.

PROF. F. KOHLRAUSCH, of Strassburg, was proposed as the successor of Hertz at Berlin, but the death of Helmholtz intervening he will now succeed the latter in the Directorship of the Physico-Technical Institute.

GENERAL.

THE discontinuation of the *Index Medicus* is threatened unless sufficient subscriptions are secured before February 1 to defray the costs of publication.

ACCORDING to the *Publishers' Circular* there were 5,300 new books and 1,185 new editions published in Great Britain during 1895, 203 more than during 1894. Of these, 98 new books and 30 new editions are placed under the heading 'Arts, Sciences and Illustrated Works.'

MR. GEORGE F. KUNZ, Special Agent, Division of Mining Statistics and Technology, U. S. Geological Survey, has sent letters asking for information concerning the freshwater pearl fisheries, and concerning precious and ornamental stones of the United States.

PROF. S. P. LANGLEY, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, has addressed a letter to the competitors for the Hodgkins Fund Prizes of \$10,000, of \$2,000, and of \$1,000, stating that in view of the very large number of competitors, of the delay which will be necessarily caused by the intended careful examination, and of the further time which may be required to con-